



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 1, 2011

H.R. 2170 **Cutting Federal Red Tape to Facilitate Renewable Energy Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 13, 2011

H.R. 2170 would narrow the scope of environmental reviews conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for proposed renewable energy projects. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2170 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under current law, BLM analyzes a range of alternatives when reviewing proposed renewable energy projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under the bill, such reviews would be limited to the proposed project and an alternative where no project is developed. The bill also would reduce the time period for the public to provide comments to BLM on draft NEPA analyses for renewable energy projects. Based on information provided by BLM, CBO expects that implementing the legislation could reduce the workload of certain BLM offices; however, we estimate that the budgetary impact of any such effects would be negligible.

H.R. 2170 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.